

Boston
Globe
2/3/71
p. 10

50 ^{National} Boston leaders call it 'proxy' war

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A group of 50 businessmen, academics and student leaders who gathered last weekend to discuss national priorities yesterday criticized the Nixon Ad-

ministration's continued use of air power in Southeast Asia as a means of waging war "by proxy."

"We cannot condone a policy which merely withdraws ground troops while we continue to wage a war by other means which are

less visible to the American public but nonetheless devastating to the people who are being bombed and whose countries are being destroyed," the group stated.

Using the title "Project Runnymede" for the weekend session held in Dedham, Mass., at MIT's Endicott House retreat, their prepared statement added, "The US does not have the right to use firepower to determine who shall govern in Vietnam, Cambodia, or Laos. We see no justification for using aerial bombardment throughout Indochina, sacrificing Asian lives to save our prestige while shielding our sensibilities from the moral consequences of our war policy."

Participants in the conference were drawn from business, professional and academic life, including Cyrus Vance, former Secretary of the Army; Osborn Elliott, editor of Newsweek; Howard Johnson, president of MIT; Maurice Lazarus, vice chairman of Federated Department Stores; and Franklin Lindsay, president of Itek Corp.

The group called its statement a "consensus" of the conference, indicating that each participant did not necessarily support each and every point.

The conference, which was addressed informally by both presidential adviser Henry Kissinger and former U.S. Senator Albert Gore of Tennessee at the outset, declared its support of the Administration's withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam and urged that the process be accelerated.

"There appears to be developing throughout Indochina a pattern of expanding and intensifying the war by proxy use of South Vietnamese forces which are equipped, financed and supplied by the US and by direct use of US air power," their statement said.

"We cannot believe that this 'new war' is necessary to protect the withdrawal

of American forces from Vietnam — and we fear that it is likely to prolong or deepen American involvement in Southeast Asia . . ."

The group called for the Nixon Administration to restrict further use of air power to protecting the withdrawal of US forces, and urged the President to announce "an early fixed withdrawal deadline" and for Congress to reinforce this by legislative means.

The conference was organized by a group of students at MIT last spring following the US military incursion into Cambodia and received early support from the Itek Corporation.

Designed to "develop, through dialogue, approaches to national moral and political problems which no single group of participants could resolve alone," the group will issue further statements on domestic problems in the future.

Other participants from business and the professions included: Hugh Calkins, a Cleveland lawyer and member of the Harvard Corporation; William D. Eberle, president of American Standard, Inc.; Robert Manning, editor of The Atlantic; Victor Palmieri, a real estate executive, and Arthur Taylor, a vice president of the International Paper Co.

Also from the universities were Dr. Edward J. Bloustein, president of Bennington College; Daniel Ellsberg of MIT; Matthew Meselson of Harvard; Jeremy Stone, director of the Federation of American Scientists; and Jerome Wiesner, provost of MIT.

Student participants included a 12-man steering committee from MIT along with Richard Beeman of the Ripon Society; Warner Buxton, undergraduate student body president of Jackson State; Mark Gerson, author of "The Whole World is Watching: A Young Man Looks at Youth's Dissent"; and others.